

out yet—the very fact that we were able to provide unemployment benefits, extension of unemployment benefits and expansion, so that Nevada families that find themselves unemployed for the first time ever are going to be able to use this as a bridge to get from where they are now to where we need to be.

Health care. So many of my constituents, the very poorest of us, depend on Medicaid money. The State of Nevada had no Medicaid money. The Federal Government came in and helped the State of Nevada so that we can continue to provide health care for the poorest among us.

Education. We all talk about the importance of education and how it is the most important thing that we can provide children for their future and for the future of this country. Well, Nevada was broke. The State legislature couldn't figure out where we were going to get the money, and the Federal Government came to our rescue; \$400 million in fiscal stabilization funds.

What is that? That means that we are going to prevent teacher layoffs and other education cuts. We were restoring the money that was slashed by the Nevada Legislature, \$70 million in special education, \$70 million in disadvantaged student funding. These were so important for the people of Nevada, so important for our school-children.

And when things get tough and people are laid off, the first thing they are going to need is food stamps in order to feed their families.

I know that my time is almost up, but there are three things that are so important. A \$250 one-time payment to all Social Security beneficiaries. That is 100,000 people in Nevada that will benefit from that. Veterans, a \$250 one-time payment to disabled veterans. 18,000 veterans in Nevada will benefit from that. And infrastructure funding as well. \$200 million will be spent in Nevada on infrastructure. \$33 million are for flood control projects, and the rest is going to go to the Regional Transportation Commission to continue to improve our infrastructure, all very important.

The people of the State of Nevada need to know this, and I appreciate the fact that this body passed that legislation.

AFGHANISTAN AND THE LESSONS OF VIETNAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Madam Speaker, last week on the House floor I mentioned a column that appeared July 19th, 2009, in the Raleigh News and Observer entitled, "From Vietnam 1959 to Afghanistan 2009." The column was written by Joseph Galloway, a military journalist and coauthor of a book on Vietnam

called "We Were Soldiers Once . . . and Young."

In his column, Galloway uses the history lessons of Vietnam as a cautionary tale to President Obama as he oversees America's military involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Galloway describes a time during the war in Vietnam in 1965 when Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara presented Lyndon Baines Johnson, President, with a top secret memo. It indicated that the United States had reached a decision point, with two available options. The first option was to arrange diplomatic cover and pull out of South Vietnam. The second option was to increase the number of American troops by 200,000, bringing the total to more than 500,000 Americans on the ground.

Regarding this second option, McNamara stated, "All we can possibly achieve is a military stalemate at a much higher level of violence." A couple of weeks later, Johnson assembled what he called the "wise men" for a brainstorming session on Vietnam; yet those who participated said there was no real decision of McNamara's option one.

From that time, when Johnson chose to escalate and continue the war until its conclusion 10 years later, Americans suffered 56,000 more casualties.

Madam Speaker, President Obama's administration has reached a similar decision point concerning Afghanistan. With regard to the Obama administration's escalation of troops in Afghanistan, Galloway states, "Some smart veterans of both Iraq and Afghanistan, on the ground now or just back, say that at this rate we will inevitably lose the war in Afghanistan; that the situation on the ground now is far worse than Iraq was at its lowest point in 2006 and early 2007. They talk of a costly effort both in lives and national treasure that will stretch out past the Obama administration and maybe the two administrations after that."

In his column, Galloway advises: "Obama needs to call in the 'wise men and women' for a fish-or-cut-bait meeting. Let's hope that this time around, there's an absence of the arrogance and certainty of previous generations of advisers. Let's hope, too, that they will weigh very carefully all the costs of another decade or two of the war in Afghanistan."

Madam Speaker, after nearly 8 years of U.S. military operations in Afghanistan, the President needs to outline a clear strategy for victory. I have spoken to many in the Army and Marine Corps who say our Nation needs an end point to its war strategy.

While America's military personnel faithfully conduct their missions abroad, elected officials here in Washington should take seriously their responsibility to develop a viable long-term strategy for these operations.

Many of these servicemembers have gone to Iraq and Afghanistan more than once, and their desire to serve this Nation is greater than ever. But

the stress placed on our all-volunteer force and their families cannot continue forever.

While the United States continues to devote its blood and treasure in Afghanistan, the Afghan Government has yet to purge itself of many who funnel support for the Taliban.

Our men and women in uniform deserve to have the President work with his military commanders and the Congress to develop the best strategy for achieving our goals and wrapping up our military commitment in Afghanistan.

Madam Speaker, as I do every night that I have the opportunity and privilege to speak on the floor of the House, my heart aches. I have signed over 8,000 letters to families who have lost loved ones in Afghanistan and Iraq because I regret that I voted to give the President the authority to go into Iraq.

Madam Speaker, because of that, I want to close this way. I ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform. I ask God to please bless the families of our men and women in uniform. I ask God in His loving arms to hold the families who have given a child dying for freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq.

And three times, Madam Speaker, because America needs the love of God, I close this way: God please, God please, God please continue to bless America.

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BORDER PROTECTORS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, America lost a great lawman last Thursday near Campo, California. United States Border Patrol Agent Robert Rosas was brutally murdered on July 23 by thugs illegally crossing into the United States. Agent Rosas was shot and killed at approximately 9:15 p.m. while following a group of people who had crossed the border illegally. Agent Rosas was by himself, like a lot of our agents nowadays. He radioed for backup. The group Agent Rosas was following split up before backup agents arrived to help him.

Agent Rosas was following one of the groups; but when fellow officers arrived, they found Agent Rosas outside his Border Patrol vehicle. He had been shot several times in the head and other places in the body. Agent Rosas had served with the Border Patrol for 3 years. He was only 30 years of age. He was married and had a 2-year-old son and an 11-month-old daughter. A suspect, Ernesto Parra-Valenzuela, is in Federal custody in Baja, California. He had a standard Border Patrol-issued 9 millimeter pistol tucked in his clothes when he was arrested. Four other Mexican nationals were also arrested. They were part of a violent smuggling ring, and one of the other men arrested is

wanted for two homicides and a rape. Also detained were 21 illegals.

Shooting at Border Patrol agents is a drug cartel way of life. T.J. Bonner, president of the National Border Patrol Council, said that around 50 border agents a year are shot at. Others are run down by vehicles. For example, in January 2008 United States Border Patrol Agent Luis Aguilar was run down and killed by a drug smuggler in a Humvee 15 miles north of the border in California. When agents spotted a drug-laden Hummer trying to flee back to Mexico, Agent Aguilar threw down a spike strip to stop the vehicle. Witnesses said the driver of the Humvee swerved to intentionally hit Agent Aguilar, and the vehicle was traveling over 55 miles per hour. Agent Aguilar was killed. He was a 6-year veteran of the Border Patrol. He was 32 years of age, and he left behind a wife and two kids. The Humvee driver, the drug smuggler, escaped back into Mexico.

There are others who were killed by smugglers. In August of 2002, United States Park Ranger Kris Eggle was shot and killed in the line of duty at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument in Arizona. The area has become a haven for drug and alien smuggling. The area is known as Cocaine Alley. A drug cartel hit squad fled into the United States after committing a string of murders in Mexico. Outmanned and outgunned, Ranger Eggle never had a chance. He was 28.

Agent Rosas is the first Border Patrol agent to be shot since Ricardo Salinas and Susan Rodriguez were slain in Texas in July of 1998. The Cameron County, Texas, Sheriff's Department was investigating a report of shots fired in Rio Hondo, Texas. That's in the Rio Grande Valley. Deputies found a woman, Margarita Flores, and one of her daughters, Delia Morin, dead at their home. Her son was also shot and seriously wounded. The killer, Ernest Moore, was seen fleeing in a pickup truck; and with the help of the Border Patrol, sheriff's deputies spotted the vehicle in a driveway of a San Benito house Moore shared with his father.

The deputies and the agents were searching the home and the nearby cornfields when they heard rifle shots. Border Patrol Officers Ricardo Salinas and Susan Rodriguez were both found shot and killed. The perpetrator was also killed.

Madam Speaker, the border regions in this country have become the most lawless areas in the United States. Drug cartel thugs roam the border frontier, transporting drugs, weapons, cash, illegals and victims of sex trafficking across the border at will. The noble Border Patrol agents are outmanned, outgunned and out-financed by the drug cartels; and these outlawed drug cartels need to be captured and brought to justice.

In the meanwhile, our Border Patrol protectors need our support. We owe the brave men and women who guard the border more than gratitude for the

sacrifices they make. We owe them the proper funding, manpower and support to guard not just our border but their safety as well. These agents are the first line of defense between the illegal drug smuggling cartels and the American people.

And that's just the way it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE COST OF MEDICAID, MEDICARE AND THE DEMOCRATIC HEALTH CARE BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, we heard from CBO that the President's plan for health care could cost an extra \$1 trillion to \$2 trillion. That's on top of what we're already spending. Well, I started looking at that this year and asked my staff to help me gather the statistics. What we got from the CRS and also the Census Bureau was the estimate for the last year that we had a full year's numbers, for 2007, of how much Medicare and Medicaid cost in tax dollars.

We took the estimate from the Census Bureau of how many households there were in America in 2007. There were 112 million households estimated. You divide the number of households in America into the amount of tax dollars spent for the year 2007, and it's over \$9,200 for every household in America being spent on Medicare and Medicaid. When you realize that every house on average is coming up with \$9,200 in order to pay for Medicare and Medicaid, what struck me is we can do so

much better than this. This is atrocious. We've got seniors all over the country who are buying wraparound or surplus coverage to supplement their Medicare coverage, people on Medicaid; and that didn't even include the amount being paid for SCHIP.

So I have asked for the latest projection from the Census Bureau as of today. The Census Bureau is projecting that for right now in America there are about 117 million households in America. We were told that the President's health care bill would cost somewhere between \$1 trillion and \$2 trillion.

So I got this chart. I want to do some simple division here. We've got \$1.170 trillion because we feel like that is a conservative estimate since the President's projection would cost somewhere between \$1 trillion and \$2 trillion, and we know there are 117 million households in America. Well, let's see how much the President's plan is going to cost every household in America. It's easy if you have a good public school education like I did back in the day. We'll take that off of both sides, cancel that off of both sides, then divide 117 into \$1,170,000.

Folks, the President's plan is going to cost an additional \$10,000 for every household in America on top of the \$9,200 per household we're paying in America right now. Do you realize, Mr. Speaker, how much we could do with that kind of money? Well, that's what hit me.

So the point is we finally got back tonight the plan that I had submitted. Mr. Speaker, I am so grateful to Leg Counsel. I trash-mouthed them a little bit the last few days because they stonewalled my plan, I thought; but they pushed. They got it through. We got it tonight. For much less money, this plan will buy every household in America that has people on Medicare, Medicaid, SCHIP, it will buy them private insurance with a \$3,500 deductible and put cash money in a debit card account for their health savings account. They will for the first time in over 40 years have control of their future, control of their health care; and, by golly, they will have complete coverage. Not in America ever have they had complete coverage. This will give them control.

Then we don't have to read articles like the one in Politico about the President's plan promoting euthanasia. Will it or will it not? We don't need to go there. We don't have to go there.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PERRIELLO). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MACK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MACK addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mrs. BACHMANN) is recognized for 5 minutes.